



TERALBA TO TORONTO CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING

Phase One

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT MARCH 2023

WE ASKED

Council is working with the community to proactively plan for flooding, sea and lake level rise, bushfire, urban heat and other climate risks that can impact on community and environmental wellbeing.

From 31 January - 5 March 2023, we sought feedback from the community to inform climate resilience planning in the nine lakeside suburbs of Teralba, Booragul, Marmong Point, Woodrising, Bolton Point, Fennell Bay, Fassifern, Blackalls Park and Toronto.



We reached



13,357 people reached via Council's social media



6506 subscribers to Eco Advocate e-news



5737 subscribers to Shape Lake Mac e-news



570 visits to Council's online engagement platform Shape Lake Mac



58 surveys completed (online and hardcopy combined)



41 attendees at Simtable events



29 direct emails to community groups, businesses and government agencies



23 residents expressed interest in joining the Working Group.



6 media channels promoted engagement including Newcastle Weekly, Intouch Magazine, the National Tribune, Mirage News, Eco Voice and the Coal Point Chronicle.

Survey results

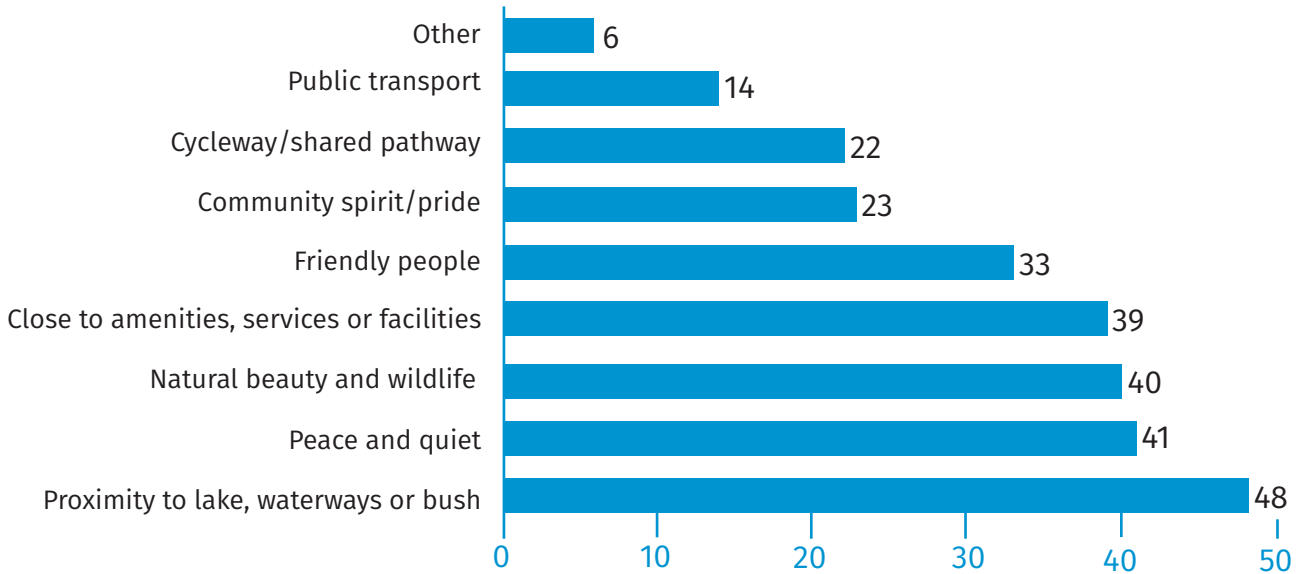
Of the 58 survey responses received, the top three suburbs with the highest number of responses came from residents in Toronto (15) Blackalls Park (7) and Teralba (5).

The majority of respondents (30) were over 60 years of age. This was followed by the 41- 60 age group (22) and 21- 40 age group (3).

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE?

Respondents could select multiple options. The top three values that received the highest number of responses were Proximity to lake, waterways or bush (48), Peace and quiet (41) and Natural beauty and wildlife (40). (See chart on the next page.)

What do you value most about where you live?



CONCERNS FOR CLIMATE HAZARD IMPACTS

Respondents were asked to score their level of concern regarding the impact of climate related hazards now (in 2023) and in the future (over the next 20-30 years). For reference, 1 = not at all concerned and 5 = extremely concerned.

IN 2023

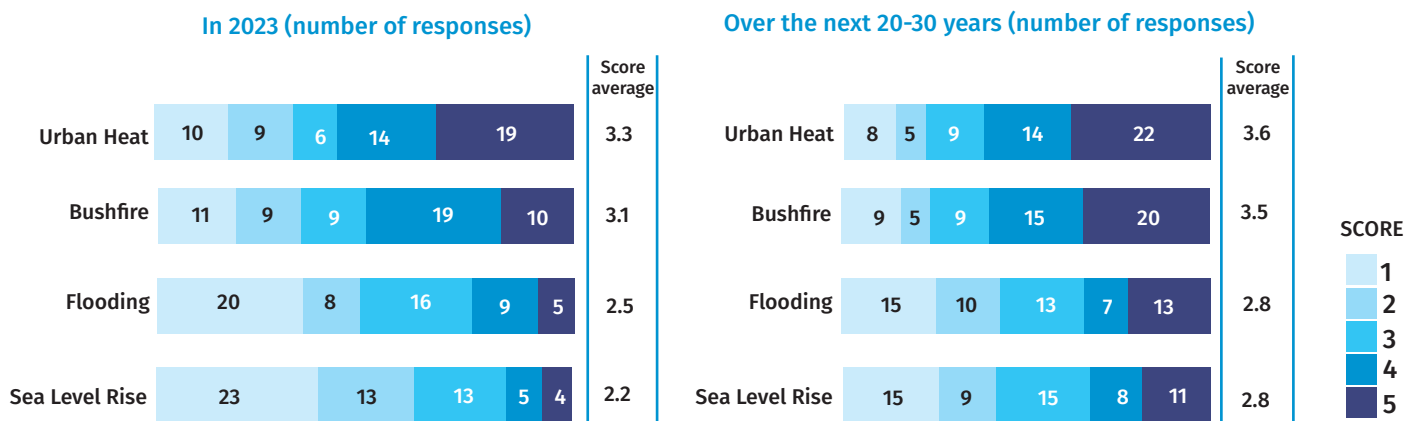
Hazards that respondents are concerned or extremely concerned about are Urban Heat (33) and Bushfire (29). Hazards that respondents were least concerned about in 2023 are Sea level rise (36) and Flooding (28).

OVER THE NEXT 20-30 YEARS

Similarly, the hazards that respondents have the greatest concern for in the long-term are Bushfire (35) and Urban Heat (34) and Hazards that respondents were least concerned about in 2023 are Flooding (25) and Sea level rise (24).

The average scores shown in the chart below illustrate an overall rise in the level of community concern relating to climate hazards over the long-term (20-30 years), when compared to 2023.

On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely) what is your level of concern for the following hazards impacting you



ANY OTHER HAZARDS?

Respondents were asked to comment on any other climate related hazards they were concerned about in the short to long term.

The top five concerns in the data were:

- Clearing of bushland for development and subsequent loss of habitat
- Pollution in and around the waterways e.g. debris, abandoned boats, noxious weeds and run-off contamination
- Concerns for lack of park/pathway lawn maintenance
- Lake shoreline erosion
- Waste and litter management concerns.

WHAT STEPS COULD COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY TAKE TO HELP BUILD RESILIENCE TO THE CLIMATE RELATED HAZARDS OUTLINED ABOVE?

Comments were received from 48 respondents. The top five themes that emerged in the feedback were:

- Reduction of bushland for development is a concern
- Create more green spaces with suitable vegetation
- Needing greater education and outreach in the community
- Maintain and enhance Council's bushfire hazard reduction programs
- Investigate and encourage self-sufficiency through renewable sources e.g. solar power and tank water.

COMMENTS

"Currently it seems urban development is stripping trees and vegetation with little forethought of the future impacts."

"More 'green areas' with limited housing encroaching on what land is left untouched. Less concrete and more native plants/ grasses."

"Work with community and other agencies (e.g. Ausgrid, Telstra, Hunter Water) to provide better information to residents at local scale on likelihood of being impacted by major weather events and how best to prepare for these."

"Resilience needs to be at a grassroots level. Cooperation and collaboration with Council, Neighbourhood/Community Centres Federal and State Governments and residents. Education programs and outreach to the vulnerable residents."

PREFERENCES FOR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

Respondents were asked how they would like to be involved in climate resilience planning in the area moving forward. The majority of respondents (31) indicated they'd like to receive project updates, followed by being involved in one off volunteering opportunities (28) and by helping to review some of the materials (25).

ONLINE MAP RESULTS

The community were asked to drop a pin the online map, and share the places they value as well as observations and mitigation ideas in regards climate hazards in the area.

A total of nine comments were left on the online mapping tool and can be viewed on our [Shape Lake Mac](#) site.

The key themes in the feedback were:

- Approval of development occurring without full understanding of the impacts on the natural Environment
- Concerns for development on urban heat
- Changing waterways including accumulation of silt and reduced water flow in some channels
- Fallen trees and debris in waterways
- Peaceful, green spaces that residents enjoy.

NEXT STEPS

Further consultation with the Teralba to Toronto Working Group and key stakeholders will be ongoing. A second phase of community consultation will occur in 2024 to test resilience planning options with the broader community. Residents can register to receive project updates on our [Shape Lake Mac](#) website.

Contact us